



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR JULY 31, 2022  
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“All of us invent ourselves. Some of us just have more imagination than others.”  
Tony Dow

PRELUDE “Allegro” from Suite No. 7 – G.F. Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and hear what God has done:

**God has listened to all our prayers.**

When we pass through the torrent of deep troubles,

**God turns the sea to dry land.**

When we are tangled in the web of life,

**God does not let our feet slip.**

When we are tested as silver is tried,

**God keeps us in the land of the living.**

When we go through fire and water,

**God brings us to a spacious place.**

Come and hear what God has done:

**God surrounds us with steadfast love.**

**Let us worship God!**

HYMN 475 “O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

**O that I had a thousand voices  
To praise my God with thousand tongues!  
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,  
Would then proclaim in grateful songs  
To all, wherever I might be,  
What great things God has done for me.**

**O all you powers that God implanted,  
Arise, keep silence now no more;  
Put forth the strength that God has granted!  
Your noblest work is to adore.  
O soul and body, join to raise  
With heartfelt joy our Maker’s praise.**

**You forest leaves so green and tender  
That dance for joy in summer air,  
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,  
You flowers so fragrant and so fair,  
You live to show God’s praise alone.  
Join me to make God’s glory known.**

**All creatures that have breath and motion,  
That throned the earth, the sea, the sky,  
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,  
Help me to sing God's praises high.  
My utmost powers can never quite  
Declare the wonders of God’s might.**

OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Henri Capieu)

**God, we sing to you and give you thanks. For despite our pains and faults, in the midst of our pains and faults, we know that you are a God who calls forth our praise and love.**

**For the world, so beautiful and so fragile; for life, so lovely and so threatened; for this immense universe in which your realm will spread, we praise you.**

**For this day which speaks to us again of the resurrection, for your Spirit which unites us in all our separate places, we praise you.**

**And because we can love you and love each other on the earth, in the name of the love of Christ, in peace and with joy, God we praise you. Amen.**

ANTHEM “Sing for Joy” from the oratorio “Judas Maccabaeus” by George F. Handel, 1685-1759 Arranged by Linda Spevacek  
Jo Benda, Marnie Campbell, Ray Muston and Charles Platz

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Aria" from Suite No. 14 – G.F. Hande

\*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40:28-31

PSALM 147:1-9, 16-20

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

how pleasant it is to honor the Lord with praise!

**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

The Lord heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**The Lord counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power,  
whose wisdom is beyond limit.

**The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the harp.

**God covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth;**

God makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve humankind.

**God provides food for flocks and herds  
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

God gives snow like wool  
and scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs;  
who can stand against the cold of the Lord?**

God's word is sent forth and melts them;  
God's stormwinds blow, and the waters flow.

**God's word is declared to Jacob,  
God's statutes and judgments to Israel.**

[Unison]

**The Lord has not done so to any other nation;  
to them God's judgments have not been revealed.  
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Philippians 4:10-20

SERMON      “The Contented Church”

\* HYMN 339      “Be Thou My Vision”

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      “Fugue” in C Major – G.F. Handel

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

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**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.** We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

**THANKS TO JO BENDA, MARNIE CAMPBELL, RAY MUSTON AND CHARLES PLATZ** for singing this morning.

**THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CLAIRE ASHMAN** will be held in the sanctuary this coming Saturday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m.

**A NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held in the coming weeks. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS THIS MONTH:** On Wednesday, August 10, Bill will begin leading a Zoom Bible study looking at Paul's letter to the Romans. Together we will explore at least some of the theological depths of this book that is the longest, the weightiest, and the most substantial of all of Paul's correspondence. Stronger fare than usual for the summer, to be sure! Please join us as we take eight Wednesday evening sessions to explore this 16 chapter book. The sessions are informal and no previous knowledge of the specific book or the Bible in general is needed. If you are interested, call Bill at 319-337-4301 or email him at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) and he'll send you the Zoom invitation. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00- 8:30 beginning Wednesday, August 10.

**USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:** As we continue to reopen, there are new opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

**HELP SUPPORT THE SCHOOL KIDS IN THE SOUTH DISTRICT:** The Mission Board has signed our church up to provide supper on August 5, 2022 at 5:00 in Wetherby Park. United Action for Youth and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition are hosting suppers in Wetherby Park in June, July and early August. We will feed approximately 100 people, primarily youth who will have had a strenuous afternoon of structured activities in the park. We've been asked to provide food that kids would like. Families and passersby will also be welcome. We could use help cooking, serving, and/or sharing this community meal with the South District residents. If you are interested in helping, send a note to Donna Hirst, [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu). 2022 has been a very challenging year for kids, and we hope this effort will help the South District kids learn that the community "has their back" and wants their summer to be excellent.

**FAITH IN ACTION: A JCIC FUND AND FRIEND RAISER**

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) invites you to join us at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville September 8, 2022 5:30-8PM Co-chairs are Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst.

The goals of Faith in Action are: 1) to raise money for a community organizer to develop grants, assist with community events and actions, and build the community by enlisting new member organizations, 2) to provide an opportunity for the community to share a meal and social opportunities, 3) to celebrate JCIC accomplishments and renew a common purpose, and 4) provide basic information about the current status of JCIC.

The event will include music, a catered meal featuring Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine, and a silent auction. Attendees will have an opportunity to register their highest priority social justice concerns during "Issues on the Wall".

Tickets are \$50 per adult. Discounted tickets are available; we want everyone who is interested to attend. The registration form includes instructions for requesting a discount.

REGISTER:

To register online go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/372529715407> by August 29, 2022.

SPONSOR:

Individual Sponsors are encouraged at 3 levels: 1) Supporter \$100 2) Change agent \$300 3) Transformational \$500.

About JCIC:

The Congregational UCC has been a member of JCIC since its inception in 2017. JCIC has ca. 20 member institutions: Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, Islamic, and secular. Our vision: To build a multi-cultural faith-based community organization that advocates for social justice. Our mission: To organize for social equity, first and foremost for persons of color.

**SIGN UP FOR *CHANGE AGENT*: AN ONLINE UCC MISSION BOARD SOCIAL CHANGE BULLETIN BOARD:** The Mission Board is responding to requests from the congregation and creating an Online Social Change Bulletin Board. This monthly email publication will be a system that will include notices of rallies, petitions, upcoming legislative or policy actions warranting letters or phone calls, protests, important meetings of the school board or city council, each of which has the potential to increase social justice. Highest priority alerts will be local actions, then state actions and national actions. Notices will not support political candidates or parties. We would be delighted if everyone in the congregation is interested in subscribing. If you would like to receive these monthly mailings send your contact information to Jenn Harden, [uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org).

**TABLE TO TABLE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS** to help with maintaining their mission of connecting abundance with need in Johnson County. They are incredibly flexible: whatever your schedule is, they can probably work with it! They have volunteers that come in twice a week and volunteers that come in twice a month and both are valuable to the organization. Duties can include: harvesting produce at farms and orchards, driving or riding in T2T vans on routes to pick up and deliver food, helping prep vans for their routes in our shop (move empty boxes around while listening to some tunes!), offering free fresh produce in at-need neighborhoods, and more. If your interest is piqued, check out their website ([table2table.org](http://table2table.org)), contact them at [volunteer@table2table.org](mailto:volunteer@table2table.org) or at 319-337-3400.



**WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR GIVING APP.** Your giving makes a world of difference.

**WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.**

You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

**RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES** are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.